

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Living Conditions, Security, and Resistance in Lazdiu, Pogegen, and Auce

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2. Starting in 1946, many German refugees from East Prussia entered Lithuania illegally, and by 1947 there were thousands. They scattered all over the country and even went to Latvia. In the beginning they were hiding, but in 1949 they were registered in Lithuania by the Soviet authorities and their status became semi-legal. In 1947, in Kaunas, the militia tried to detain the German refugees and to send them back to Kaliningrad, but the expellees came back again, and the militia was not able to cope with this problem. By 1949 the first regular repatriations to Germany took place, but the Soviet authorities realized that this was a failure because the repatriation was carried out without any registration, and thus many persons from Lithuania managed to pass as Germans and be repatriated. Therefore, the Germans were registered, and each case thoroughly checked. This checking took place until May 1951, when Germans throughout Lithuania and Latvia were repatriated. However, many Germans remained. Either they did not want to be repatriated, or did not appear at the assembly centers for fear that the transports would not really go to Germany, or were detained by Soviet authorities for additional checks. In Skuodas, a young man of 22 was taken off the transport because there was a suspicion that he had had connections with the partisans.

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- 25X1 3. [] the following market prices in Pogegen in 1951:

Boots, artificial leather	150 rubles
Boots, leather	500-600 rubles
Work shoes, with rubber soles, called tanks	120-200 rubles
Man's suit, good quality	1500 rubles
Bicycle, German make	1500 rubles
Grain, 100 kg	150-250-300 rubles

(In addition, the farmer or kolkhoz respectively received three rubles for each centner from the State.)

Wages were low; an unskilled worker received about 300 to 350 rubles per month, an office clerk 400 rubles, and only in such jobs as loading lumber was it possible to earn good money, e.g., 120 rubles for a 12-hour day.

- 25X1 4. [] there were market
25X1 days on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and on these days begging was profitable. The market was held in the usual marketplace. Admittance for those who wished to sell was five rubles per person and 15 rubles for a horsecart. Auce could be reached from Lithuania by the train Kaliningrad-Riga via Sovetsk-Klaipeda-Priekule-Mazeikiai. This train ran every other day and arrived in Auce at about 0900 hours. From Riga Auce was reached by the return train Riga-Kaliningrad, which left Riga every other day at 0630 hours. Besides this train there were other, local trains from Riga to Auce. Until early in 1951 these trains went as far as Renge, but then they went only to Auce.

5. When returning by train from begging trips, [] other Germans from Pogegen used to ride as far as the railroad station at Sovetsk and go from there to their camp, which was located between Pogegen and Sovetsk, because from Pogegen many rivers had to be crossed and from Sovetsk there was only one bridge to cross. The border was not strictly guarded, and the German refugees were allowed to cross the border. []

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25X1 The militia was strict with Lithuanians, since most Lithuanians coming to Sovetsk were black marketeers. They were arrested and fined. Despite this risk, Lithuanians came to Sovetsk often with food, which was more expensive there than in Lithuania. On the other hand, there was more food available in Sovetsk than in other East Prussian towns such as Chernyakhovsk or Slavs, and Soviets from other towns in former East Prussia came to Sovetsk to shop, even from Kaliningrad. Railroad fare from Riga to Sovetsk was 60 rubles.

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6. The local militiaman in Pogegen was a Lithuanian who said unofficially in 1949 that there was a possibility of repatriation to Germany. The repatriation in May 1951 was managed in Pogegen by an MVD officer. The registration in 1949 and the interrogations before were carried out by the rayon militia in Pogegen.

7. The following are some market prices in Lazdin as of the fall of 1950:

A pack of 20 cigarettes	1.10 rubles
A pack of 20 papirosi cigarettes	45 kopeks to 1.60 rubles
Loaf of rye bread, per kg	2 to 3 rubles
Work clothes for men (poor quality)	124 rubles
A good man's suit	800 to 1000 rubles
Shoes, leather in heel and toe only (These shoes wear out within four months.)	24 rubles

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